

NEW YORK HERALD.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

WILSON'S GARDEN, Broadway, -WILLIE BRYAN -LAW
FOR LADIES -LAWYER.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway, -ROSEDALE.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway, -TICKET OF LEAF
MAN.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway, -CAMILLA'S HUSBAND.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery, -MARIETTA -DUBOIS
BOY -LADIES -LAWYER.BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery, -THE CABIN BOY -VAMP
MARTY.BARNUM'S MUSEUM, Broadway, -FRENCH GIANTS
GIANT BOY, LILLIPUTIAN KING, &c. at all hours. TICKET
OF LEAF MAN. Afternoon and Evening.WOODS' MINSTREL HALL, 54 Broadway, -ETHIOPIAN
SONG, DANCE, &c. -HICKORY BACKLOG.GEO. CHRISTIE'S MINSTRELS, 65 Broadway, -SUN
SHINE, SONG, DANCE, &c. -HICKORY BACKLOG.AMERICAN THEATRE, No. 44 Broadway, -BALLET
FANTASIES, DANCES, &c. -LILLIPUTIAN KING.BROADWAY AMPHITHEATRE, 65 Broadway, -GRAND
BAND AND EQUINE PERFORMANCES. Afternoon and
Evening.HOPE CHAPEL, 715 Broadway, -THE OPTICOPHIC
OF MICHIGAN OF THE INTEREST.NEW YORK MUSICAL ACADEMY, 610 Broadway, -CONCERTS
AND LECTURES. From 5 P. M. till 10 P. M.ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Brooklyn, -CONCERT BY THE
CHORUS BOYS.ROBERT'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn, -ETHIOPIAN
SONG, DANCE, &c. -HICKORY BACKLOG.

New York, Tuesday, January 5, 1864.

THE SITUATION.

Gregg's cavalry division, under command of Colonel Taylor, of the First Pennsylvania regiment, made a reconnaissance towards Front Royal during the past three days, but found no enemy. They traversed a distance of ninety miles, and suffered terribly from the cold. Another expedition to Rectortown succeeded in capturing three rebel officers and two hundred new rebel uniforms at that place. Colonel Smith, of the First Maine, also made a successful scout to Luray and other points in the Shenandoah valley, for which he was complimented by General Pleasanton. The stories concerning the large force of the rebels under General Early and Colonel Fitzhugh Lee near Winchester are doubtless exaggerated. They have made no attack as yet on the railroad, as they would have done ere now if they were as formidable as report would make them. General Kelley, however, is quite prepared for emergencies.

Our correspondents from Key West, by the steamship Blackstone, which arrived here yesterday, is of an interesting character. The naval operations on the coast of Florida are active and successful. An extensive sail work of the rebels was destroyed in St. Andrews Bay, and St. Andrews City was levelled to the ground by the crews of the steamers Bloomer and Restless. The sail works destroyed were valued in all at nearly \$3,000,000.

Information was received at the Navy Department yesterday that, at twenty minutes past six on the morning of the 26th of December, the enemy opened on the steamer Marblehead at Stone Inlet, which was replied to vigorously. Soon after the Pawnee opened fire on the enemy's batteries from her one hundred-pounder rifled gun. On hearing the firing the C. P. Williams slipped her cable and came down Fall River under sail, and opened fire. The rapid fire from the three vessels soon caused the enemy to retreat in disorder, leaving two of his guns in the batteries.

The Marblehead was struck twenty times and much injured. Her officers and men stood to their guns until the enemy had retreated. Her foremast is cut, and she has twelve shots in her hull and one between wind and water. Three of her men were killed and four wounded. The enemy's guns were brought away by an expedition from the three vessels.

Major General Butler is about to proceed from Fortress Monroe to Washington for the purpose of obtaining full powers to conduct the exchange of prisoners, which it is said he is resolved to carry out despite the objections of Jeff. Davis.

A despatch from Leavenworth yesterday states that advice from the South says a fight occurred on December 18, near Fort Gibson, in the Cherokee country, between one thousand rebels, under Quantrell, and Colonel Phillips, of the Indian Brigade. The fight lasted several hours, and resulted in the complete defeat of the rebels, who scattered in all directions, leaving fifty killed and wounded on the field. Our loss is reported to be small.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

The new Board of Aldermen was organized yesterday by the election of Mr. John T. Henry as President, Mr. D. T. Valentine as Clerk, and Messrs. Terence P. Smith and W. Walsh, First ward, as Sergeant-at-Arms and Assistant Sergeant. Mr. Valentine appoints his deputy and other assistants. There will be no change made in these efficient officials. The President delivered a very able address. Mayor Gunther sent in his inaugural message and an appropriate letter on the death of Archbishop Hughes.

The Board of Councilmen for the year 1864 organized at noon yesterday. There are twenty-four members, of whom only two are republicans. James Hayes, Esq., of the Fourteenth ward, was appointed President, and Mr. James M. Sweeney, the clerk, together with his assistants, were continued in office. Mr. Hayes has been a member of the Board for two years, during which time he has acted as chairman of several of the most important committees. He has also taken an active part in all business brought before this branch of the Common Council, and from experience thus gained will no doubt make an able and efficient presiding officer. The annual message of his Honor the Mayor was received and immediately referred to the Committee on Printing and Advertising and ordered to be printed in the minutes. The Board then adjourned until Monday next at one o'clock.

An eloquent and high sounding call for a meeting in behalf of the "freedmen and colored soldiers on the banks of the Mississippi and elsewhere," to be held at the Cooper Institute, brought together last evening between four and five hundred persons, one half of whom, perhaps, were colored people. As stated during the proceedings, this meeting, held under the auspices of the Freedmen's Friend Society, was in no way identified, in name or object, with the meeting of the African Civilization Society, also held at the Cooper Institute on the 1st instant. It was

announced that Mrs. Charles Sumner would be present and address the meeting. He did not appear, however, his legislative business, as he set forth in a letter of excuse for his absence, detaining him in Washington. The proceedings were of rather a tame character. A strong band of colored musicians, dealing out most doleful music from time to time, made the whole affair appear very uninspiring indeed. The meeting was addressed by the Rev. James R. Glendon (colored), Rev. Mr. Carter (colored), by the Rev. Dr. Bellows and Rev. Mr. Boile, Dr. Raymond (colored), and the Rev. Dr. Cheever. The Proclamation of Emancipation was the principal theme of the discourses of these gentlemen, which instrument, though not going far enough for them, was thus accepted as the key note of universal liberty, not only on this continent, but throughout the world. The bravery of our negro soldiers on the field, and their right to all the privileges of white soldiers, was also a subject of muchology and remark. Letters of absence were read from Mr. Sumner, Governor Andrew and Fred. Douglass.

The temperature showed a very marked and desirable change yesterday as compared with the two previous days. The cold continued to be quite severe, but its great intensity was broken, the thermometer showing several degrees difference. On New Year's morning the mercury was forty-six degrees above zero. On Saturday morning it had descended forty degrees, marking five degrees above zero. Yesterday morning it was thirteen degrees above zero at an early hour, but descended considerably during the day. The "snap" seems to have been much more severe in other parts of the country than in this city. About five o'clock yesterday afternoon there was a slight fall of snow, which, at a late hour, increased, and in all probability we will have sleighing.

Reports of snow storms and cold weather reach us from all points. The snow storm yesterday commenced at Washington at half-past nine o'clock in the forenoon, reached Baltimore at ten, and arrived in New York at half-past three in the afternoon. Throughout the Northwest the weather has been colder during the past week than has been experienced for many years previously.

The January term of the Court of General Sessions commenced at eleven o'clock yesterday morning. Recorder Hoffman on the bench. A panel of eighteen grand jurors was sworn, and Mr. Oliver S. Strong appointed foreman. The Recorder, in his charge, drew their attention to the great number of stabbing and shooting affrays which have lately taken place in this city, and implored on them the necessity of exercising extreme vigilance in the investigation of such cases. John Sullivan, an aged street sweeper, pleaded guilty of manslaughter in the fourth degree on an indictment which charged him with having caused the death of Patrick Rae, a fellow workman, by striking him on the head with a hoe, on the 10th of November last. He was remanded for sentence, and the Court adjourned until this morning, at eleven o'clock.

The trial of Francis Fitzpatrick for the murder of Bridget Gilroy, thirteen years of age, by shooting her through the forehead on the 29th of July last, was commenced yesterday in the Oyer and Terminer, before Judge Leonard. Assistant District Attorney O. L. Stewart conducted the prosecution. It appears that the prisoner lived in a tenement house, and had a quarrel with some women; that he returned to his room, got a pistol, fired it off, when it killed the girl, who was an innocent spectator from a window. The case is still on. In the same court John Downey pleaded guilty to the fourth degree of manslaughter, in causing the death of Sophemia Hannegan, by throwing scalding water on her, and was remanded for sentence.

We have received a pamphlet containing Mr. Dickerson's speech to the jury of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia in regard to the navy of the United States, being an exposure of its condition and the causes of its failure. The speech was published in the HERALD a few days since; but the pamphlet is rendered more full and valuable by the addition of copious notes, making a volume of about eighty pages. We understand that copies have been sent to each member of Congress.

The wool growers and stock raisers of Ohio are to meet in convention at Columbus to-day. So important has the wool interest become that a very large attendance is anticipated. Hon. Henry S. Randall, of New York, is to deliver an address. The Legislature of Ohio is in session, and no pains have been spared to bring together representatives of the great interests of wool and sheep from all parts of the country. The Sorgho Convention is also to meet at the same place to-day.

The City Inspector's report states that there were 476 deaths in the city during the past week, a decrease of 5 as compared with the mortality of the week previous, and 156 more than occurred during the corresponding week last year. The recapitulation table gives 5 deaths of alcoholism, 6 of diseases of the bones, joints, &c.; 79 of diseases of the brain and nerves, &c. of the generative organs, 74 of the heart and blood vessels, 131 of the lungs, throat, &c.; 9 of old age, 37 of diseases of the skin and eruptive fevers, 4 promotor births, 69 of diseases of the stomach, bowels and other digestive organs; 37 of uncertain seat and general fevers, 2 from unknown causes, 7 of diseases of the urinary organs, and 13 from violent causes. There were 312 deaths of the United States, 11 of England, 105 of Ireland, 4 of Scotland, 34 of Germany, and the balance of various foreign countries.

The stock market was not active yesterday, and most of the railroad shares were forced to submit to a decline from Saturday's prices. The greatest falling off was in the Western stock. Money cannot be considered abundant, yet there is no deviation in the rate of interest for unexceptionable paper. The gold market opened with a business appearance, and some large papers were taken at 151½ to 151¾, the market closing at 151¾. The bank statement is considered favorable, except in the item of specie, which has fallen off in amount nearly three hundred and eighty thousand dollars.

There was but little doing in a commercial way yesterday, yet the markets were characterized by extreme nervousness, merchants anticipating a more active season after the new year has fairly commenced. At the Produce Exchange things were in statu quo. Groceries remained quiet, but very firm. Cotton was rather dull. Petroleum was inactive, and sales were very light. Freight was extremely dull, but unchanged.

THE RE-ENLISTMENT OF VETERAN VOLUNTEERS.—By the resolution of the committee of the Supervisors, published in the HERALD on Thursday last, all the three years men whose terms of service expire on or before the 4th of July next can receive the county bounty. The War Department has, by order, agreed to receive re-enlistments of all whose terms expire in 1864, and credit them on the quota of the county where they re-enlist. We understand that the terms of few of the regiments from this city expire before the 4th of July.

We trust the Supervisors will conform their action to that of the War Department, and that New York may get credit on the draft for all the three years veterans. Efforts are now being made to prevent these men from going to Brooklyn and other places to re-enlist.

CONGRESS.—The two houses of Congress, after their furlough of the Christmas and New Year holidays, reassemble for business to-day, and we expect that their opening proceedings will be a variety of resolutions in both houses on the negro question. If we get anything better from them for a month to come we shall be agreeably disappointed.

Governor Seymour and the Police Commissioners.

The removal of the Police Commissioners by Governor Seymour, and the refusal of the Commissioners to abdicate without a trial and a thorough investigation of the charges against them, have attracted much attention and caused considerable excitement among all parties in this city. Opinions in regard to the legality of the Commissioners' course may perhaps differ; but it is unanimously conceded that Governor Seymour has made another blunder, and still more clearly demonstrated his want of capacity for the position he holds.

About a year ago Governor Seymour took the oath of office. The Police Commissioners and Superintendent Kennedy had then made themselves very obnoxious to the people by their arbitrary arrests, their extraordinary stretches of authority, their ill-treatment of lady prisoners, and other unauthorized acts. Superintendent Kennedy had been very unwisely appointed a provost marshal, and seemed to think it his duty to become the willing tool of the War Department, and to use our police force to carry out Secretary Stanton's odious orders. This was a sad mistake on the part of Mr. Kennedy, and it was an equally sad mistake for the Police Commissioners to endorse Mr. Kennedy's errors. Governor Seymour was, therefore, expected to remove the Police Commissioners at once, upon sworn evidence against them. The evidence was all ready, and accordingly, on the very day of his inauguration, he summoned the Commissioners to appear before him at Albany on the following Saturday. The Commissioners declined to appear; but, instead of removing them forthwith, the Governor, who is badly afflicted with the *cacothese scribendi*, wrote them another letter, promising them "a full and fair trial," and stating that he would name an early day for that purpose. This letter was written on the 5th of January, and the Commissioners did not hear from the Governor again for nearly five months, during which time they went on with their duties, and he wrote silly letters to other people upon other subjects.

At length, on the 3d of June last, the Commissioners were favored with another gubernatorial epistle. The Governor sent them copies of additional charges against them, and requested them to send him their answers before the 13th of June. "When your answers are received," added the resolute and reliable Governor, "I will make the proper order for an inquiry into the truth of the charges made." The Commissioners sent in their answers on the 11th of June. The Governor at once subscribed, and the Commissioners did not hear from him again until the 31st of December—about six months after—when he peremptorily dismissed them and appointed their successors. There had been no "fair and full trial," no "thorough investigation," no inquiry into the truth of the charges made. The Governor's promises in respect to these matters were like piousness—made to be broken. The Commissioners felt back upon these promises, however, and refused to vacate without a trial. They have a moral, though they may not have a legal, right to do. Governor Seymour, with his customary want of tact, has caught his own fingers in his own trap. If he had dismissed the Commissioners a year ago he would have done a very just and popular thing. If he had dismissed them six months ago he would still have made some political capital. But by removing the Commissioners now, after his opportunity has long since passed, and without the trial he promised them, he shows that he lacks sense as well as backbone.

"Circumstances," as the proverb tells us, "alter cases." The Commissioners might have been justly dismissed last January or last June; but in July last came the dreadful draft riots. Then the Police Commissioners more than redeemed their reputations and more than atoned for all their previous faults. From the most humble roundsmen up to the leading Commissioner, our policemen covered themselves with glory. They put down the rioters and saved the city. For this they deserve the public gratitude and consideration. By this they regained their lost popularity, and, since the riots, nothing has been heard of their former accusers. Has not Governor Seymour waited enough to see that these circumstances alter this case? Instead of removing the Commissioners he sought to have thanked them. But, not satisfied with doing the wrong thing at the right time, he must now do the right thing at the wrong time. He forgets that what was expedient last January is not expedient in December. He is like a timid, half-witted doctor, who is afraid to bleed the patient when he is sick, but insists upon bleeding him a year afterwards, when he is perfectly well. He began the year by corresponding with the Commissioners, when he should have removed them, and ended it by removing them when he should have corresponded with them. Another draft is near at hand, and another riot may ensue. Is this the time to dismiss the old Commissioners, appoint new ones, stir up a conflict of authorities, and thus demoralize the police force? Does Governor Seymour wish to place us at the mercy of the mob? We do not believe that he has courage enough for such a scheme; but, like a child playing with powder, there is no telling what damage he may do by meddling with these matters in his foolish, blundering, imbecile way.

For this reason, and without further exposing Governor Seymour to our readers' contempt, we turn the whole affair over to the Legislature. Let them take the control of the police out of the feeble hands of the Governor and restore it to the Mayor, to whom it rightfully belongs. Or, if this republican Legislature be not prepared for such a movement, let them appoint four Commissioners—two republicans and two democrats—to serve for a year, and then allow the power to lapse to the Mayor. Commissioner Acton, who is the most active and efficient member of the force, would of course be chosen as a member of this new board, and so all parties would be gratified and satisfied. We are sure that some plan of this kind would be adopted by the Legislature if it were properly presented, and we urge our city members, who are more immediately interested in the matter, to bring it before the Assembly. If the affair be left as it is, Governor Seymour will probably forget all about it in a day or two, and only remember it in time to write another letter about it next June. If we were certain this would be so the issue might be satisfactory. But, on the other hand, we have no guarantee that the Governor will not consider it his duty to do something foolish upon this occasion, and so involve the Commissioners in litigation, and leave all the policemen doubtful whom they

are to obey, and to whom they are to look for their money. In that case what would become of us in the event of another riot? We had a little experience of such a state of affairs under Mayor Wood, and are not anxious to have it again inaugurated. On the whole, therefore, it is best and safest to trust nothing to Seymour, and we earnestly call upon the Legislature to take immediate action in the premises.

Mayor Gunther's Inaugural Message.

In another part of to-day's paper will be found Mayor Gunther's message to the Common Council on assuming the duties of his present high and responsible position. It is full of excellent suggestions and recommendations to the Legislature, the municipal bodies and the community at large. Setting out with the statement that the expenditures of the city exceed, in proportion to the population, those of any other municipality in the world, he proceeds to show that this has been caused by the creation of independent jurisdictions in the different departments and the withdrawal of all power of control on the part of the Mayor. He cites the conflicts which are continually taking place between the Croton Board and the Street Commissioner, and which are keeping the upper part of Broadway and the entrances to the Park constantly blocked up, to show how productive of unnecessary expense and inconvenience to the public such a system must always prove.

Mr. Gunther is opposed to the proposed plan of disposing of the public markets, ferries, wharves, piers or slips for the purpose of paying off a portion of the city debt. He says (and we fully agree with him) that if these valuable privileges were to be parted with to individuals they would levy indirect taxes on the community greatly exceeding what would be saved by diminished taxation, and that would fall most oppressively on the poor. He recommends that memorials be presented to Congress and the Legislature calling for repayment of the advances made by the city for war purposes; that stringent measures be adopted to compel the payment of all outstanding arrears of personal taxes; that property assessments shall be made as early as the 1st of March, to avoid the reprehensible practice of issuing revenue bonds in advance of the collection of the annual taxes; that all the existing wooden wharves and piers shall gradually be replaced by stone ones; that such amendments shall be made in the Excise law as will bring to the city a full annual revenue of one hundred thousand dollars from that source; that the trap block or Belgian pavement shall be laid down everywhere throughout the city; that the police shall be made to perform the duties of street inspectors, and to make daily reports of their condition; that the Mayor shall be nominated a member of the Police Commission, and have a limited number of officers detailed, under his immediate direction, to enforce the city ordinances; that the city railroads shall be compelled to extend their tracks as far as the avenues they occupy are graded, and to run cars as often as the local population reasonably demand; and that a general system of rearmament shall be enforced throughout the whole of our city government. In illustration of the necessity for this, Mr. Gunther says that, while city officials are clamorous for another addition to their salaries, under the plea of the increase which has taken place in the prices of the necessities of life, it is a fact that the clerical aid required in a single city department would nearly suffice to perform the business in all the others, in addition to its own.

It will be seen from the above summary of his message that Mr. Gunther has a full conception of what is expected of him from the independent voters who secured his election. But the concluding passages show that he is as despondently alive to the fact that he is powerless to carry out these so much needed reforms. He says:—"Although in theory entrusted with a supervision over the executive departments, that supervisory action which is exerted over officers completely independent is a nullity. All the executive departments are independent of the control of the Mayor and Common Council, and only responsible to the State authorities. The extreme point of disunion has been reached. Each individual portion of the city government is violated, and stands apart a sovereign in itself." There is no exaggeration in this. Although the nominal head of an administration which expends from twelve to thirteen millions a year (more than the whole expenditure of the national government under John Quincy Adams in the year 1827), the Mayor is unable to control or check any of its disbursements. The consequences are thieving and profligate waste of the public money and inefficient performance of their duties by corporate officials. If the Legislature has the least sense of self respect it will put an end to this state of things. Mr. Gunther has been elected to remove all pretenses for its further continuance. Let not our representatives in Albany mistake that manifestation of the public will. To disregard it would be an act of suicidal folly on their part.

SOUTHERN RAILROADS—BAD FOR THE REBELS.

At the beginning of this war, with their newly built and well stocked railroads, including those of Tennessee, Kentucky and Mississippi, the rebels had such facilities of transportation for their armies and their supplies, on their interior lines, that it was a difficult matter, for a year and more, to defeat them in a grand movement upon any point. But since the capture of Vicksburg and Port Hudson, and the recovery of East Tennessee, the case has been wonderfully changed. The rebellion has been despoiled of many of its most important railway lines, and of hundreds of locomotives and cars, and many of its most valuable iron foundries, machine shops, &c. while the remaining roads between Richmond and Mobile are as nearly worn out as they can be to be serviceable even at the rate of ten miles an hour. And the worst of it, to the rebel managers, is that they have neither the raw materials, nor the workshops, nor the workmen, within their diminished confederacy, that are required to repair these worn out roads, or to replenish their deficient and rickety rolling stock. The consequences will be that, with the resumption of active military operations in the spring, the rebel armies between Virginia and Louisiana will be powerless to move from point to point to the support of each other, so that they will be entirely at the mercy of the fleets and armies of the Union. How little did Jeff. Davis and his fellow conspirators dream, three years ago, that their railroads, upon which they so confidently relied for the success of their military movements, would prove, before the end of the war, as treacherous as their dreams of foreign intervention.

THOUGHTS ABOUT AFFAIRS IN THE OLD WORLD.—The latest advice from Europe shows that in Hungary, Denmark and India the governments have cause for serious apprehensions. In Poland the revolution has outlived the strongest repressive measures of the Russian government, and bids fair to keep the Czar in continued hostility. It is a remarkable fact that, now that we may reasonably hope for a speedy termination of our struggle, the nations of Europe seem upon the brink of a general war.

France, under the dominion of a Napoleon, must ever be in conflict. In turn and war alone can the Emperor hope to escape the fate of those monarchs who have preceded him since the great Revolution of 1793, when France first asserted that she was more powerful than her masters. There can be no doubt that Napoleon contemplates a war in the spring, were it only to save his almost lost prestige and power. The German States are on the brink of a war with Denmark; and who can foresee what complications may arise from such a struggle? Austria sees Hungary upon the point of a great outbreak, which it will tax all her resources to contend against successfully. Even England has now threatened war. In India the people have once again risen, and have successfully combated the English troops. This may become a desperate and determined conflict between the people and their oppressors; and who can assure that England's resources will suffice to save her rule in India?

But a few months since, and Europe rang with reproaches against the people of this country. We were taxed with all the ills which the governments of Europe had brought upon themselves by their unfair treatment of us, and our institutions were made a mockery of. How things are changed now. We are no longer accused of breaking the peace of all the world. There are indications, which all may understand, that our time of peace is near at hand, while it may readily be comprehended that in Europe the peaceful hour has almost gone by. When the dreaded general conflict shall begin in the Old World, the results shall prove the superiority of our institutions, so lately ridiculed. We will come out of the fire of war purified, and still more than ever powerful. The nations of Europe shall crumble to dust and fall into utter ruin when they encounter such dangers as we shall have successfully contended against.

COLONEL ALEXANDER CUMMINGS ON A NEW TACK.

Colonel Alexander Cummings, who tried the New York World as a half-and-half political and religious journal, only to find that party politics and piety do not mix well, and who next, as an army contractor, made some extensive ventures in straw hats, ginger beer, cheese and red herring for our veteran soldiers, and signally failed as a humanitarian and a speculator, has at last, in his hope, been appointed to a field of labor in which he will distinguish himself as a philanthropist and a soldier. He goes to Arkansas with a commission from the War Office to raise colored troops in that State. We do not expect him in this enterprise to come up to the exploits of Alexander the Great; but if, with the opportunity thus presented, he does not make the fur dy from the rebel guerrillas of Arkansas, and does not turn an honest penny in the bargain, "let him forever hereafter hold his peace."

PREPARING FOR A STAMPEDE AT RICHMOND.

The central arsenal of the rebel government has been removed from Richmond to Columbia, South Carolina. This, we dare say, is but the prelude to the transfer of the rebel capital and its rebel government, archives, scrip, officers and offices, workshops, bag and baggage, to the same destination in the spring. Thus the rebellion, which was contrived, mented and inaugurated in South Carolina, will find its "last ditch" in the same State. In evacuating Richmond there is no place of even temporary safety so eligible to Davis and his rebel establishment as Columbia, South Carolina, and we apprehend that unless the War Office at Washington shall move as soon as possible upon Richmond our troops will advance upon the city only to find its resident starving population thrown upon their hands. "Only this, and nothing more."

PARK THEATRE, BROOKLYN.

Mr. Harrison commenced his season of English opera last evening under the most promising auspices. Although the weather turned out unfavorable, every seat in the house was filled by the time the curtain rose. Among the audience were observed a great many people from New York, the debut of two popular concert singers on the operatic stage being, no doubt, the attraction that induced them to undertake such a pilgrimage.

The lovers of music do not require to be told that the Bohemian Girl embraces some of the best music that has been written. It is full of agreeable melodies, and is founded on a story which has more dramatic merit than is usually to be found in pieces of this kind. With the exception of two or three of the minor characters, it could hardly be better cast. If Madame Thérèse is not as sympathetic as Artine might be supposed by a poetic imagination to be, she possesses all the other requirements of the part. She has a highly cultivated voice, expressive features, thorough acquaintance with stage business and a remarkably correct pronunciation, seeing that English is not her native tongue. She phrases beautifully and executes with a facility and precision that reminds one at times of Lablache. The impression that she made may be judged of from the fact that everything she sang during the evening was cheered. In the concerted pieces, as well as in the solos, she exhibited all the qualities of a perfectly trained artist, and bore away a large share of the honors of the evening. Mr. Gattie, whose Thaddeus was his first effort in this line, surprised us by the creditable manner in which he fulfilled his dramatic requirements. Although a little nervous at first, he soon got over his timidity, and sustained the part with commendable spirit. The beautiful melodies incident to it were done to the full, and in the fine song, "The Fair Land of Poland," he roused the audience to enthusiasm. Mr. Campbell, who also made his first appearance in the opera, was never heard to more advantage than in the music of this part, which is in all respects well suited to it. Of the other personages of the cast we have not space to speak, if we were so inclined. The orchestra, under the popular conductor, Mr. Theodore Thomas, was numerous and well under command. We wish we could say the same of the chorus, which has yet to receive a good deal of drilling, owing to the fact of there being some difficulty in completing it in time. There were of course some hits in the performance, but these were what we least expected to find them in—the dramatic portion of the business. Such things are unavailable in a first night's representation, and it is to be thoroughly pleased with the manner in which the opera was cast and put upon the stage, and at its close testified their satisfaction by calling the principal artists before the curtain.

Important Decision.

THE DELAWARE AND HUDSON CANAL COMPANY AND THE PENNSYLVANIA CANAL COMPANY.

Hudson, N. Y., Jan. 4, 1864.

Judge Hoopes has decided the long pending controversy between the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company and the Pennsylvania Canal Company in favor of the former company.

City Intelligence.

EAR OF DR. BOWEN'S CURATOR.—The fair for the benefit of this church has been postponed for a week in consequence of the death of Archbishop Hughes.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, JAN. 4, 1864.

TROUBLE REGARDING FINANCIAL MATTERS.—There appears to be trouble brewing in reference to financial affairs. The fact is very severely commented upon, that just as the subscription to the five-twenty bond loan is about to be exhausted, the Secretary of the Treasury should authorize subscriptions to be received through the Treasury agents to the five per cent interest bearing notes, the creditors of the government are asked to receive at par from the Treasury for all their dues. The opposition to the issue of thirty-five millions from the new National Bank is also a matter of serious comment in financial circles. It is understood that an agreement has been entered into between these banks and the Secretary to allow him to retain, for the purpose of meeting the January payments due to the army, thirty-five millions of the notes to be issued to them, and the banks are to receive instead five-twenty bonds. This will pay to these banks twelve per cent upon the amount of their capital. This, however, is only a small part of the trouble.

Just before the holidays Congress struck out the bonus clause in the military bill. To induce the Senate to strike it out, the statement was made by Messrs. Sherman and Fremont, both members of the Senate Finance Committee, and known to be peculiarly friends of the Secretary of the Treasury, that if it was not stricken out the Secretary would be obliged to ask for authority by issue from one hundred to five hundred millions more of legal tender. It now appears that the Secretary of the Treasury has been prepared, and under the representations made must be passed. This will necessitate the issue of one hundred and fifty millions more greenbacks. The propriety of this issue is, however, sustained by the statements of disburbers of the Treasury. This popular circulating medium is deemed by them altogether insufficient for the wants of the country. On Saturday last the Treasurer here asked the Assistant Treasurer at New York for three millions of greenbacks for immediate use, and they could not be supplied without several days delay. The opinion has also been expressed by several members of the Finance Committee of the Senate, that the volume of currency is insufficient for the needs of the business of the country, and, as an addition to it is so urgently needed, it will not produce any considerable inflation, and that the advance in prices cannot fairly be attributed to the issue of greenbacks, but is merely attributable to the other causes set forth in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury.

For these reasons they are not averse to according to the proposition of the Secretary of War to provide for the payment of bounties, as they believe that the addition of one or two hundred millions to the currency will not materially advance values, at least no more so than the issue of which the National Bank notes are now in circulation. Under these circumstances there is no doubt that Congress will authorize immediately an addition of two hundred millions to the non-interest paying debt in the shape of legal tender, instead of relying upon loans such as are proposed by the National Banks at twelve per cent interest, or by subscriptions to the five per cent interest bearing notes, which can be paid out at par.

A large installment of the five per cent Treasury notes was sent forward to-day to the associated banks of New York, Philadelphia and Boston, and \$30,000,000 of silver notes were distributed free rate to the cities named. Nearly nine millions more are packed ready for transportation, and a large additional amount will go to the banks to-morrow.

There has been a total apprehension in certain quarters as to the recent arrangement for the negotiation of thirty-five millions through the subscription agency of the National Bank. The fifty millions taken by the associated banks were to be delivered to them; the commission was paid for placing them in other hands. ARRIVAL OF GENERAL BUTLER.—THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

Major General Butler and wife, accompanied by Captain Fuller, of his staff, and Mr. Desperous, his private secretary, arrived here to-day. The General has been during most of the day occupied in consultation with the President and military authorities here upon the subject of the exchange of prisoners.

GENERAL BUTLER TO COMMAND IN KENTUCKY.

It is understood to be definitely arranged that General Rosecrans is to take the place of General Schofield in the Department of Missouri.

GENERAL STONEMAN ORDERED TO JOIN GENERAL GRANT'S ARMY.

General Stoneman, Chief of the Cavalry Bureau, has at New York been ordered to take command of the Cavalry Corps, and has been ordered to report to General Grant. General Grant has been placed in charge of the Bureau.

ARRIVAL OF GENERAL BUTLER.

Major General Butler and staff arrived here this morning, and are stopping at Willard's. The General has been engaged at the War Department in consultation with the President during the day.

CAPTURE OF THE MEXICAN SCHOONER RAYON DEL NILO.

The Navy Department has received information of the capture of the Mexican schooner Rayon del Nilo, of Pinar del Rio, Texas, in December last, by the United States steamer New London. She had neither logbook nor papers. Her cargo consisted of coffee, sugar, codfish, wine and percussion caps.

INDEMNITY FROM THE JAPANESE.

Despatches from Mr. Pruyn, the American Minister in Japan, announce that the Japanese government has agreed to pay the claim for damages of \$10,000, for intercepting the American steamer Pamlico last year. This augurs a good understanding with Japan.

MR. E. B. ELLIOTT HEARD FROM.

Mr. E. B. Elliott, of the Sanitary Commission, whose non return from Europe and unaccountable silence was noticed a few days since in the Herald, has been heard from, documents having been received from him by the steamer which reached New York December 28, postmarked Berlin, January 18, which has relieved the anxiety of his friends.

THE AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

The report of the Commissioner of Agriculture for November and December is in the hands of the printer, and will be issued in a few days. It will be of more than the usual interest and importance, as it gives a review of the agricultural operations of the year.

SLEIGHING AT THE CAPITAL.

This evening, for the first time this season, sleigh bells are heard upon Pennsylvania avenue. A heavy snow storm commenced this morning, and continued through the day, some two or three inches of snow having fallen. It has suspended this evening, but there is a prospect of more snow before morning. Sleight and sleighing are amusements which are seldom enjoyed in Washington, and consequently an opportunity may offer.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, DESERT FOR MASSACHUSETTS.

The General Land Office has just transmitted to Governor Andrew agricultural college sowing completing three hundred and sixty thousand acres, being the full complement to which the State of Massachusetts is entitled, under the Agricultural College law.

Police Intelligence.